

**MINUTES OF
FAUQUIER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
MARCH 31, 2004**

Members Present: Matthew Smith, Chairman; Laurence Mason, Vice-Chairman, David Cubbage, William G. Downey, Garrett Moore, William D. Nace, Gary Nelson, Holder Trumbo and Liz Cook

Members Absent: Harry F. Atherton and Sam Poles

Guests Present: Mark Cornwell, Paul Blackmer & John Foote

Staff Present: Virginia Bowen, Fran Williams

1. Approval of February 25, 2004 Committee Meeting Minutes.

On motion made by Matthew Smith and seconded by Bill Nace, it was moved to approve the February 25, 2004 Committee meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Consider the Status of Huntley Road as to Whether the Road is a County/Public Road or a Private Road – James and Lynn Wiley.

Liz Cook received a communication from Paul McCulla, the County Attorney regarding the Wiley's request for the County to determine whether the road in question is in fact a County or VDOT road. According to Paul McCulla, the Wiley's have not been able to provide a Title Insurance Policy. At the present time there is nothing the Transportation Committee can do for the Wiley's and they will have to proceed through the courts to try to get some type of right-of-way provided to their property. The Wiley's are aware of Mr. McCulla's resolution, but this was a step in their process to come to the County to try to make a determination on the status on Huntley Road.

On motion made by Gary Nelson and seconded by Bill Nace this item was formally removed from the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Liberty High School Flashing Lights – Mark Cornwell. (Item #5)

Mr. Cornwell shared a resolution that the Board of Supervisors has passed requesting to move Liberty High School's flashing lights because of a problem with their current location. The turn lanes were extended at Liberty High School and the location of lights was right on top of the turn lane, so there are limited opportunities for cars approaching to slow down properly within the school zone. At the request of the Transportation Committee, Mr. Cornwell had his staff meet on site with a VDOT representative and also a representative from Payne's Parking Design, Inc. to get an estimate on the work.

Currently, there are two flashing lights going north and south. In order to continue the project, VDOT has requested two additional lights on the inside/outside lanes. An estimate was done for electric and solar lights with a recommendation to go with solar lights, which are less expensive. The total is about \$35,000 with 10% added for building permit fees and other expenses. Since the cost is over \$35,000, it requires three or more written quotes.

Mark Cornwell is looking for the Transportation Committee to forward this on to the Board of Supervisors with a recommendation for funding.

On motion made by Gary Nelson it was moved that the Committee send it to the Board with a recommendation to fund the lights. It was seconded by Holder Trumbo. Bill Downey advised that the request will have to go through the Finance Committee first. The motion carried unanimously.

4. *Consider Making a Recommendation on the VDOT/County Road Agreement for the Lake Whippoorwill Subdivision – John Foote (Item #6)*

Mr. Foote discussed his memo about a road agreement between VDOT and the County regarding a Comprehensive Plan road in the Lake Whippoorwill subdivision. This road was planned to be relocated Route 605 however VDOT made improvements in place and will likely not relocate Route 605. However, VDOT made improvements in place, and will likely not relocate Route 605. There was discussion regarding the road name.

The Lake Whippoorwill subdivision is fully occupied and Mr. Sanders had to bond the construction of a four lane road. Mr. Sanders is still on a bond for the four lane road and would like to get off the bond so that VDOT will accept the road in the State System of Secondary Highways. However, VDOT will not take a “half section” of roadway. The proposed road agreement would allow VDOT to take the half section that is built, and guarantee that VDOT and the County won’t fund future improvements and maintenance of the excess right-of-way.

The agreement that has been provided has been reviewed by David Cubbage and the Attorney General’s office who has agreed on behalf of VDOT. It was reviewed by the Lake Whippoorwill Homeowner’s Association because there is going to be a 60 foot right-of-way for the road which VDOT will maintain. The other 50 feet of right-of-way will be maintained by the Homeowner’s Association. Mr. Foote advised that he would like a recommendation to go to the Board of Supervisors on the road agreement. There will be a trail in the unused right-of-way, which the Homeowner’s Association will maintain unless it goes in the public system and then it will be turned over to Parks and Recreation.

On motion made by Gary Nelson and seconded by Holder Trumbo it was moved to forward this item to the Board with a recommendation of approval. It also has to go through Paul McCulla before the Board agrees.

5. *Discuss the Speed Limit and Pavement Marking for Botha Road (Route 661) – Paul Blackmer. (Item #7)*

Paul Blackmer is a resident of North Wales, which is a community that hugs the Rappahannock River at the northwest edge of Lee District, advised the Committee of his concerns about Botha Road. Botha Village is about halfway up Botha Road. Over the past few years Botha Village has been developed and is now being populated and the number of children in the community is increasing rapidly. Mr. Blackmer stated that the Homeowner’s Association wrote a letter to Bob Moore who was the Resident Engineer and expressed concern back when Botha Village was first looked at. The road is narrow, has no yellow lines, one speed limit sign (25 mph), which cannot be seen, and blind curves. Paul Blackmer stated that he had talked with Chrissy Kirby who is the President of the Homeowner’s Association and Tony Hooper about the traffic problem.

Garrett Moore advised that he has been on Botha Road for other things and will be happy to look at it again. He said that Botha Road is not a residential street or subdivision street. Route 661 is a secondary road. If edge of pavement is less than 20 feet, the road cannot be striped because trucks

would be in violation. The main option appears to be to lower the speed limit and VDOT will study that option.

6. *Consider the Safety of the Intersection of Carter's Run Road (Route 691) and Route 17 – Hazel Olson. (Item #3)*

Liz Cook mentioned it was discussed at the last meeting and Garrett Moore was going to check into it. There is no real solution at this time and at this point we will leave it as is unless VDOT is asked to review it for closure. Garrett Moore said there are three options and they are first to do something to the access at that location and it would be a safety issue, the second one would be to put the project in the primary road plan, and the third option is to leave as it is. Liz Cook will call Mrs. Olson and tell her what some of her options are.

7. *Consider Making a Recommendation on a "Watch for Children" Sign for Falling Creek Drive – Vanessa Clark. (Item #4)*

Liz Cook mentioned that Falling Creek Drive has not been taken in the system yet. Until VDOT accepts the street, it will not install signs. The quickest and cheapest way for the taxpayers would be for the developer to install the signs.

8. *Receive an Update on Litter and Mowing – Garrett Moore.*

Garrett Moore advised that he had made a decision to do two (2) half mowings this year. VDOT usually does two (2) full mowings and one half mowing and litter is picked up and it is all under contract. VDOT is putting up pavement, bridges and fixing pot holes. According to Mr. Moore, depending on the budget, VDOT might do a full mowing every other year. The litter is getting out of control so some groups are planning a clean-up Countywide and are trying to get people to participate. It is planned in mid April. VDOT is concerned about the safety of young volunteers on busy roads like Route 17, 29, 605 and 55. Liz Cook asked about having message boards on the highways for the people's safety. VDOT will issue orange bags and will pick up the trash.

9. *Consider Making a Recommendation on the Virginia Department of Transportation Secondary Road Six-Year Plan – Garrett Moore.*

Garrett Moore discussed the Six-Year Plan. Liz Cook will bring maps showing the service district plans.

10. *Discuss Dixon's Mill Road (Route 732).*

Liz Cook mentioned it will be on next month's agenda.

11. *Other Items.*

Holder Trumbo wanted to know where VDOT is on the speed limit of Route 55 east of Marshall past the Sports Complex at Route 709. A lot of people have been asking about lowering the speed limit to 45 mph instead of the 55 mph zone past Zulla Road on Route 55. Mr. Moore advised that VDOT is putting a caution light past Route 709 and lowering the grade on Route 55 west of Route 709 by the Livestock Exchange.

Liz Cook received an e-mail about the Six-Year Improvement Plan. There will be a public hearing on April 6th.

Matthew Smith stated that he was concerned about the Interstate 81 proposal, which would provide toll roads for trucks, and likely result in additional traffic on Route 29.

Next meeting will be on April 28th at 7:00 pm.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 P.M.